REMARKS

Claims 4-6 are pending in the present application. Claims 4 was amended in this response to improve readability of the claims. No new matter has been introduced. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Biegaj et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,730). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are patentable over the art of record and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

Specifically, *Biegaj* does not disclose "providing control commands for establishment and clearing of at least one virtual connection between the central control unit and the interface modules; and transmitting the control commands approximately simultaneously from the central control unit to the active and the redundant interface modules; wherein the central control unit is notified of respective receipt of the control commands only by the active interface modules" as recited in claim 4. *Biegaj* discloses a data switching network fabric for synchronizing duplicate modules of the fabric by controlling an ingress ATM fabric module and for controlling an egress module via virtual connections (col. 2, lines 10-20). In FIG. 2 of *Biegaj*, an arrangement is disclosed for setting up or tearing down a virtual connection, where a node control complex 201 directly generates information which is to be stored in the control memories of an ingress fabric interface, an egress fabric interface and the shared memory fabric (col. 6, lines 16-20). *Biegaj* teaches that the virtual connection to be set up is a uni-directional virtual path 203 having its input on line card 211 and its output on line card 213. The node control complex controls the setting up and tearing down of virtual connections by writing information into the memories of the ingress fabric interface, the egress fabric interface, and the shared memory fabric (col. 6, lines 21-27).

It is clear from the disclosure that the arrangement *Biegaj* is materially different from that recited in the present claims. *Biegaj* teaches that separate control cells are sent for controlling an ingress ATM fabric module and for controlling an egress module. The control cell(s) for setting up the egress direction are sent ahead of the control cells for the ingress direction so that the egress module is prepared to receive actual user cells before the ingress module transmits such cells on the newly established virtual connection (col. 2, lines 10-20;

col. 6, lines 29-54). Accordingly, *Biegaj* provides that "the node control complex simply sends control cells which directly cause the appropriate control memories to be changed. No acknowledgement for receipt of such control cells is required since it is doubtful that any substantial number of hardware failures can be caught by such a measure" (col. 7, lines 1-6).

It is noted by the Applicants that *Biegaj* does not make distinctions between active or redundant interface modules. Also, through the uni-directional configuration and signaling disclosed in *Biegaj*, there is no feedback whatsoever regarding the active/redundant status of interface modules. Furthermore, the object of the disclosure in *Biegaj* is to synchronizing duplicate modules of the network fabric. In contrast, the present claims recite a method where feedback from redundant interfaces are avoided to minimize communication overhead (see specification page 11, lines 7-19).

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 4-6 of the present application are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket no. (0112740-170) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY _____

Peter Zura
Reg. No. 48,196
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4208

Dated: March 30, 2005